

Absentee Ballots:

Your Ticket for Overseas Voting

Service members should exercise their right to vote to the fullest extent possible. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) facilitates absentee voting for U.S. military and other American citizens living overseas.

Contact your local voting assistance officer (VAO) well before elections to obtain required information and materials needed to register and vote.

Materials should be sent in promptly to your local election official — in the county where you're eligible to vote.

The fiscal 2002 National Defense Authorization Act contains several provisions addressing voting assistance programs. Some new provisions are:

- Each military service inspector general will annually review and report to DoD on the effectiveness of voting assistance programs.

- Services will ensure their voting programs dovetail with Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act provisions and DoD directives governing voting assistance programs.

- Commanders will ensure VAOs are appointed, properly trained and equipped to provide information needed to register to vote and cast absentee ballots.

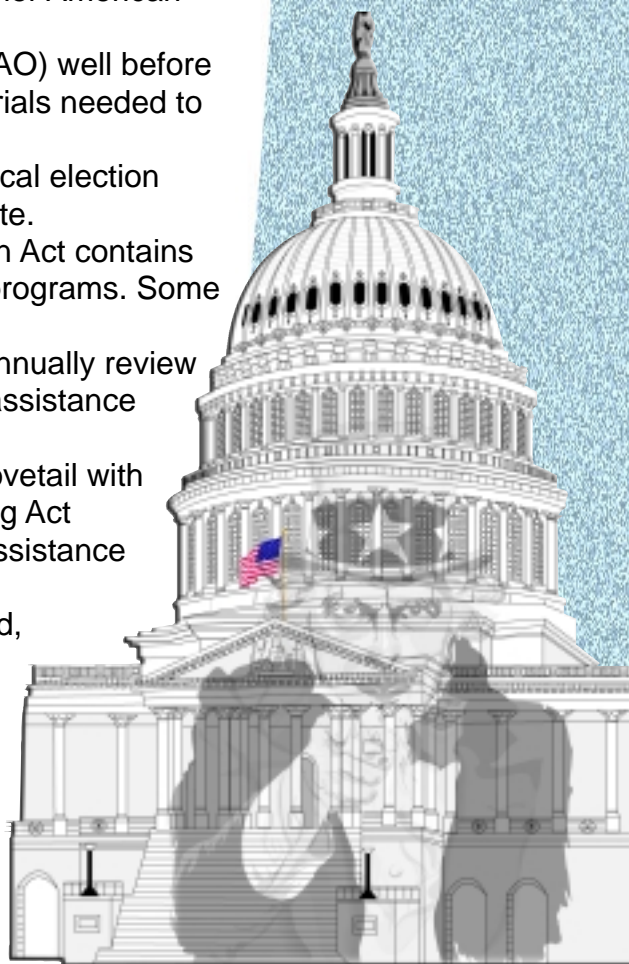
- Commanders' evaluation reports on VAOs will note their performance in carrying out voting assistance responsibilities.

The absentee voter registration and ballot processes have been simplified.

Service members who want the particulars on how to register and vote should contact their local VAO.

FVAP will conduct a demonstration project this year allowing service members to cast absentee votes electronically.

Voting assistance programs have been strengthened to help ensure that military personnel are able to exercise their right to vote.



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For more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program, visit the Internet at **www.fvap.ncr.gov**

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